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Painters in East Anglia

An Arts Council exhibition

Painters in East Anglia

By ALFRED C. COLEMAN

Painters in East Anglia

Michael Ayrtton

Edward Bawden

Elinor Bellingham-Smith

Robert Buhler

Jeffery Camp

Peter Coker

Josef Herman

Edward Middleditch

Cedric Morris

John Nash

Mary Potter

David Tindle

Keith Vaughan

Denis Wirth Miller

Foreword

The counties of East Anglia still provide the artist with a refuge from the worst excesses of urbanization as well as a countryside of surprising and unusual charm. The Arts Council welcomed a recent suggestion that it should arrange an exhibition of the work of some contemporary British painters who are living or have lived in East Anglia and who have been influenced by the special quality of its landscape.

We are most grateful to all owners and artists who have generously agreed to lend us their pictures. We are also deeply indebted to Mr Jack Wood Palmer, who has made the selection for the present exhibition and has written the introduction to this catalogue.

G.W.

Cambridge, Arts Council Gallery
January 22–February 12, 1966

Southampton Art Gallery
February 19–March 12, 1966

Plymouth, City Art Gallery
March 19–April 9, 1966

Keighley Art Gallery and Museum
April 16–May 7, 1966

Swansea, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery
May 14–June 4, 1966

Stafford Art Gallery
June 11–July 2, 1966

Introduction

It has been for far too long the settled, if ill-defined, idea in the public mind that the only painters of note associated with East Anglia are Constable, Gainsborough, and those of the Norwich School. Others of minor interest such as Churchyard, the two Wolstenholmes, Becker and Clausen, to mention only a few, are picked out from time to time as residents and have become local collectors' pieces. But, on the whole, it is not realized that this part of the country does now contain, and presumably inspire, a number of artists who may not necessarily paint the landscape, but who are moved in their being by the placid atmosphere and curiously wide serenity of sky that was evidenced in earlier times in de Wint, Cozens, Girtin and a host of others of lesser attainment. It would be easy to suppose that contemporary painters (of whom there are fourteen in this exhibition) settle in this part of England because the landscape is irresistible and they are in some way forced to paint the tame and, to some people, thoroughly boring flat fields and woods, the gemütlich villages, and above all the marshlands. This is, however, untrue. They come here for the sky, which, although it is not as clear and exciting as Cornwall, has a quality of stilled blue and banked cloud and expanse that in some strange way flattens the land and makes it more discernible to the trained eye in its concentration of lights and darks and distance. This peculiar magic can seduce artists given over to abstract, and those who prefer the planned formula in the studio to *plein air*, into producing work which the earnest but faintly pursuing in the pretty dizzy maze of modern art can recognize as some semblance of the thing seen. Quite probably after the artists have responded to the natural thing, and have perpetrated paintings quite outside their normal run, they may feel a shame that truth has informed them instead of the exhaustion of having to jump on the bandwagon. And it is perhaps the great and lasting quality of East Anglia, which has given birth to some of our finest artists, that it disciplines the painters who attempt to interpret it. It is soaked in a history of invasions and sackings and rape and loot and floods, but it has acquired a surface of tranquillity and detachment that is somehow a fascination to an artist and has attracted painters as diverse as Josef Herman, Robert Buhler, Mary Potter, Peter Coker, Denis Wirth Miller, David Tindle

and others, who can see below the surface and can extract for their own purposes visual elements which lay persons would never know were there at all.

It is for this reason that this exhibition has been organized : to show that a part of England can allure and later influence artists who, even if partly cerebral, are fundamentally English in that they cannot exist divorced from origin and must face the fact, as Tchekov knew, that the thing known atavistically and experienced in the heart is the only true echo of reality.

J. Wood Palmer

Catalogue

All works are the property of the artist unless otherwise stated. Enquiries should be addressed to the Director of Art, Arts Council of Great Britain, 4 St James's Square, SW1.

Measurements are in inches, height preceding width.

Michael Ayrton

Born London 1921. Educated in England, France and Austria. Held first one-man show in 1939 at the Zwemmer Gallery, thereafter every two years at the Redfern until 1959. Has designed scenery and costumes for Covent Garden and Sadler's Wells and has held three exhibitions of sculpture in London and Chicago. Retrospective exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery 1955. He is represented in the Tate, the Victoria and Albert, the National Portrait Gallery and in the collections of the Arts Council, the British Council and in many other important public and private collections in this country and abroad.

- 1** Delos 1960
Oil and stucco 24x43
- 2** The Black Shore 1961
Oil and collage 33x52
- 3** Pectoral 1964
Acrylac 15½x19
- 4** Cephalon 1964
Acrylac 15½x19

Edward Bawden, RA

Born Braintree 1903. Held his first one-man exhibition at Zwemmer Gallery 1934. Showed subsequently at the Leicester Galleries. Awarded CBE in 1946. Has executed numerous important commissions for murals (Festival of Britain, Brussels Exhibition and various ocean liners) and illustrated many books. Is represented in the collections of the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Arts Council, the British Council and of many important galleries in the Commonwealth. Elected ARA in 1947 and RA in 1956.

- 5** De Lank Quarry, Cornwall 1960
Watercolour 18½x22½
- 6** McSweeney's House 1963
Watercolour 18½x22½
- 7** Moon Over Errigal 1963
Watercolour 18½x22½
- 8** On the Road to Inchigeela 1963
Watercolour 18x46

Elinor Bellingham-Smith

Born in London. Studied at the Slade School 1929-31. Member of the London Group. Has held six one-man shows at the Leicester Galleries. Is represented in the collections of the Tate Gallery, the Arts Council, the Contemporary Art Society and many provincial art galleries.

- 9** Figures in the Snow 1959
Oil 25x30
- 10** May in Boxford 1963
Oil 28x36
- 11** Evening Landscape 1964
Oil 16x24
- 12** Evening Walk 1964
Oil 24x20

Robert Buhler, RA

Born London 1916. Studied at St Martin's and the Royal College of Art. Held his first show with Lawrence Gowing at the Leicester Galleries in 1946. The second at the same galleries with Russell Drysdale in 1949. Subsequently showed at the Redfern, Wildensteins, etc. Elected ARA in 1947; RA in 1946. Is represented in the collections of the Tate Gallery, Fredericktown, New Brunswick, Auckland and many public and private collections in this country.

- 13** Border Village 1945
Oil 20x24
- 14** Portrait of Rodrigo Moynihan 1948
Oil 48x36
- 15** Landermere, Thorpe-le-Soken 1948
Oil 25x30
- 16** Portrait of Ruskin Spear RA 1964
Oil 48x36

Jeffery Camp

Born 1923. Studied at Edinburgh College of Art. Held one-man exhibitions in 1958 at the Galerie de Seine and in 1959, 1961 and 1963 at the Beaux Arts Gallery, London. Is represented in the collections of the Arts Council, the Contemporary Art Society, etc. Teaches at the Slade School.

- 17** Coastline 1959
Oil 43x70
- 18** Lightning 1960
Oil 15½x23½
- 19** Sea Breeze 1960
Oil 32x48
- 20** White Clouds 1963
Oil 20x20

Peter Coker, ARA

Born 1926. Studied at St Martin's and the Royal College of Art. Held one-man exhibitions at the Zwemmer Gallery in 1956, 1957, 1959 and 1964 and took part in various group exhibitions in Australia and Canada. Represented in the collections of the Arts Council, the Contemporary Art Society and other public and private collections of note in this country.

- 21** Fish and Newspaper 1956
Oil 50x40
- 22** Hare on Table 1956
Oil 32x48
- 23** Dead Hare 1960
Conté and charcoal 29x21
- 24** Vera and Nicholas Coker 1961
Conté and charcoal 29x21

Josef Herman

Born in Warsaw 1911. Studied at Warsaw School of Art. First exhibition in Warsaw, 1932. Left Poland in 1938 and lived first in Glasgow and later at Ystradgynlais, South Wales. Has held numerous one-man exhibitions in Glasgow, Edinburgh and London, mainly at Roland, Browse and Delbanco's gallery. His exhibitions in foreign countries are too numerous to mention. Is represented in most of the principal public and private collections in this country and abroad.

- 25** Miner 1951
Oil 20x18
- 26** On the Common, Suffolk 1963
Oil 20x26
- 27** The Cornfield, Suffolk 1964
Oil 36x52
Lent by The British Petroleum Company
- 28** Miner with Spade 1964
Oil 30x24
Private collection

Edward Middleditch

Born 1923. Studied at Regent St Polytechnic and the Royal College of Art. Held one-man shows at the Beaux Arts Gallery, London, in 1954, 1956, 1958, 1960 and 1961. Represented in Congres pour la Liberté de la Culture (Rome and Paris, 1953); Pittsburgh International, 1956 and 1958; Venice Biennale, 1956, etc. Work in many notable public collections in USA and the Commonwealth as well as in this country.

- 29** Gorge, Ronda 1963
Charcoal 40x28
- 30** Burning Stubble, Ronda 1963
Charcoal and gouache 27x36
- 31** Still Life 1965
Oil 55x60
- 32** Cornfield 1965
Oil 60x60

Cedric Morris

Born 1889. Ninth Baronet. Studied painting at Academie Delaclone, Paris, 1913-14. From 1919 painted in Chelsea, Newlyn and Paris. Held a number of one-man shows in London at Tooth's and the Leicester Galleries. Exhibited in international exhibitions in Paris, Buenos Aires, San Francisco, Venice, etc. Member of the NEAC and the London Group. President of the South Wales Art Society since 1959.

- 33** Rooftops, Tavira, Portugal 1959
Oil 29x39½
- 34** Landscape, Goat Track, Malaga 1962
Oil 31x25
- 35** Flowers in Cooking Pot 1963
Oil 24x20
- 36** Landscape, Flag Staff Hill, St Helena 1964
Oil 30x20

John Nash, RA

Born 1893. First exhibited with his brother, Paul Nash, in 1913. Original member of the London Group. Taught at the Ruskin School, Oxford, and at the Royal College of Art. Held his first one-man show at the Goupil Gallery in 1921 and since then has shown a number of times at the Leicester Galleries. Elected ARA in 1940 and RA in 1951. Has illustrated many books. Is represented in the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Canadian National Gallery and in most provincial art galleries as well as important private collections here and abroad.

- 37** Landscape of China Claypits 1954
Watercolour 15x20½
- 38** Ice and Snow 1962
Oil 25x30
Lent by R. A. Bevan
- 39** Dried Flowers 1962
Oil 26x22
- 40** Bend on the River, Myfod 1964
Watercolour 15x20½

Mary Potter

Studied at the Slade School. Member of the London Group. Has held one-man shows at the Bloomsbury Gallery in 1931, the Redfern in 1934 and 1949, Tooth's 1939 and 1946 and the Leicester Galleries in 1951, 1953, 1954, 1957 and 1961. Represented in the collections of the Tate Gallery, the Arts Council, Manchester, Hull and other notable public galleries in this country, USA and the Commonwealth.

- 41** The Wood 1963
Oil 14x26
- 42** Tree in Shadow 1963
Oil 18x24
- 43** The Sea Road 1963
Oil 24x28
- 44** Still Life with a Fan 1964
Oil 36x20

David Tindle

Born 1932. Studied at Coventry School of Art. Has held one-man shows in San Francisco, Edinburgh, Manchester, Oxford, and regularly since 1954 at the Piccadilly Gallery, London. Is represented in the collections of the Arts Council, the Contemporary Art Society and in many public galleries here and abroad.

- 45** Red Bathroom, Draycott House, Shepton Mallet 1964
Oil 42x51
- 46** Boy Standing in a Yellow Green Field 1964
Oil 48x45
- 47** Pink Rose 1965
Oil 50x40
- 48** Rebecca 1965
Oil 50x40

Keith Vaughan

Born Sussex 1912. Educated at Christ's Hospital. Self-taught as a painter. First exhibited at the Lefevre Gallery in 1942. After the war taught at Camberwell School of Art and later at the Central School of Art. Executed a large mural 'Discovery' for the Festival of Britain, 1951. Many one-man shows in London and New York since 1944. Retrospective exhibitions of his work have been shown at the Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, in 1948 and at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in 1962. He is represented in the collections of the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Arts Council and the British Council and in many other important public and private collections in this country and abroad.

- 49** Procession 1963
Oil 25x24
Lent by Marlborough Fine Art Ltd
- 50** Group of Figures 1964
Oil 29x24
Lent by Marlborough Fine Art Ltd
- 51** History of Joseph IV: The Departure 1965
Gouache 20x15½
- 52** Landscape with Acrobats (II) 1965
Gouache 18½x17½

Denis Wirth Miller

Born Folkestone 1915. Held his first one-man show in 1954 at the Beaux Arts Gallery. Subsequent exhibitions at the same gallery in 1956 and 1958, and at the Lefevre Gallery in 1960 and 1962. Is represented in the collection of Her Majesty the Queen and in many important public and private collections in this country.

- 53** Landscape 1958
Oil 30x30
Lent by Keith Lichtenstein
- 54** Landscape and Distant Fire 1959
Oil 16x20
- 55** Spring Landscape 1962
Oil 30x36
- 56** Landscape, Essex 1963
Oil 14x20

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